

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
GEOG 5003 (*Critical Approaches to Qualitative Inquiry*) /
CDNS 5002 (*Interdisciplinary Methods*)
Course Syllabus / Fall Term 2017

Instructor: Patricia Ballamingie, B.A.H., M.E.S., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Geography & Environmental Studies/
Institute of Political Economy
Office: Loeb Building, B Tower, Room 440
Office Hours: By appointment.
Phone: 520-2600, ext. 8566
E-mail: patricia.ballamingie@carleton.ca
Web site: <http://www2.carleton.ca/geography/staff-faculty/ballamingie-patricia/>
Seminar: Mondays, 2:35 p.m.-5:25 p.m.
Location: Loeb A220

GEOG 5003 [0.5 credit] – *Critical Approaches to Qualitative Inquiry*

Calendar description: Development of critical skills in qualitative research by considering the relationship between theory and method. Focus on engaged scholarship and participatory, community-based, action research. Practical experience with select methods, including: interviews, personal narratives, focus groups, participant observation, archival research, discourse analysis, and visual methodologies.

Prerequisite: Graduate student standing, or permission of the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies. [Open to students from all disciplines.](#)

Format: Seminar, three hours per week.

Core Objectives

- To hone the critical skills necessary to conduct rigorous, ethical, qualitative research in the social sciences.
- To develop a methodological approach that remains sensitive to the construction of knowledge in the research process.
- To understand the merits and constraints associated with various qualitative methods (including surveys, semi-structured interviews, personal narratives, ethnography, focus groups, participant observation, archival research, visual methodologies, discourse analysis and participatory research).
- To appreciate the need for engaged scholarship, and community-based research.
- To explore themes such as: relationship between power, knowledge, and discourse; theorization of identity, involving multiple axes of social differentiation (e.g., gender, race, class, etc.); relationship between theory and method; and adoption of mixed methods.
- To understand power dynamics in the research relationship, and to mitigate imbalances through strategies of reflexivity, situation, transparency, accountability and reciprocity.
- To survey critical insights from the poststructural, postcolonial and feminist literature on qualitative methodologies.

Tentative Outline

1. Introduction: Practicing Qualitative Research (September 11)
2. Research Design (September 18)
3. The Politics of Constructing Knowledge I: Ethical Considerations (September 25)
4. The Politics of Constructing Knowledge II: Power and Performativity (October 2)
----- October 9 (no class, Thanksgiving Day)
5. The Politics of Constructing Knowledge III: Decolonizing Research (October 16)
----- October 23 (no class, Fall Break)
6. Methods I: Case Study and Discourse Analysis (October 30)
7. Methods II: Interviews and Focus Groups (November 6)
8. Methods III: Personal Narratives (November 13)
9. Methods IV: Visual Modes of Analysis (November 20)
10. Methods V: Participant Observation and Critical Ethnography (November 27)
11. Engaged Scholarship: Participatory and Activist Research (December 4)
12. Conclusions: Working with Qualitative Data (December 8)

Readings

Required readings are detailed in the Course Outline. Several weeks include chapters from the required text, below. A copy of this text has been placed on reserve at MacOdrum Library. The text is also available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore, at a cost of ~\$75 (though check online, since you may well be able to purchase it more economically). Please phone ahead [Tel.: (613) 520-3832] to ensure it is in stock.

For the remainder (and bulk) of the readings, URLs have been provided for open access journal articles that can be publicly retrieved online. Otherwise, you can access readings through MacOdrum Library (you will either be advised of a physical holding on reserve, or you will be provided with a link to an electronic holding for which we have copyright).

Required text:

Iain Hay (ed.), 2016, *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Distribution of Grades:

Evaluation:	Value:
Participation	20%
A1: Reading Review	10%
A2: Reading Review	10%
A3: Method Primer	25%
TCPS2-Core Tutorial	5%
Major Project	30%
Total:	100%

Your confidential grades will be sent by e-mail as soon as they are available. Please notify your professor of any omissions and/or inaccuracies. Detailed guidelines for each assignment and project will be distributed in class.

Assignments will generally be issued and received during class. Late assignments will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a doctor's note. Otherwise, if you are late for a due date, hand the assignment in the following week for small penalty (it is still well worth your while to complete the course work).

While you are encouraged to work cooperatively with your peers, identical assignments will be considered grounds for an allegation of Instructional Offense. Work submitted must be in your own words. Any reference to the work of others should be carefully acknowledged with full credit given to the source.

Participation

Representing 20% of your total grade, your participation will be evaluated in equal measure as follows:

- ❑ **Attendance** (a simple tally of the number of classes attended); multiplied by,
- ❑ **Participation** (a qualitative assessment of your contribution to class).

NB In a graduate-level, seminar setting, it is imperative that students complete the assigned readings prior to class; attend all classes; engage positively and respectfully in class discussions and group work; raise questions; complete voluntary activities when requested; bring in relevant materials to share with peers; and maintain their personal integrity and academic honesty throughout.

Deferred Assignments

Only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honored. Students who are unable to complete an assignment or final project because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, may apply within five working days to the Registrarial Services Office for permission to extend a deadline. Permission can be granted only if the request is fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documents.

NB: The last day to withdraw from a **Fall Term 2017** course is **September 30, 2017** (with full fee adjustment) and **December 8, 2017** (for academic withdrawal).

Grades

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 56-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

WDN =	Withdrawn from the course
ABS =	Student absent from final exam
DEF =	Deferred
FND =	Failed, no Deferred (Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam)

Final grades remain subject to the Chair's and Dean's approval.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre (PMC)** for Students with Disabilities provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the PMC at (613) 520-6608 or by e-mail at: pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at: <http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Standing and Conduct

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct in the 2017/2018 *Carleton University Graduate Calendar*. This document can be accessed online at: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/grad/>

Retain Copies of Work Submitted

Students are strongly advised to retain a hard copy (and electronic backup) of all assignments and final projects in the event of loss for whatever reason.

University Regulations Regarding Cheating and Plagiarism

University regulations stipulate that allegations of plagiarism, cheating or any violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. Each case must be reported to the Dean, who investigates each allegation. If there is no resolution following this investigation at the Dean's level, a tribunal will be appointed by the Senate to review the case and make a final decision.

(Note on Plagiarism):

Webster's Dictionary defines plagiarism as stealing. *Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's writing/ideas/work as your own.* All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly referenced. While forms of plagiarism may vary, each involves verbatim or near verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others' as one's own without adequately acknowledging the original source. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): copying from a book, article or another student; downloading material or ideas from the Internet; or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own.